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Mr Hennie Grobler
Department of Mine Surveying
Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment
University of Johannesburg

22 October 2014

Dear Mr Grobler,

I am addressing these lines to you on the behalf of Mrs Julia Neumbo who was a student in your department until 2008. Mrs Neumbo is seeking to further her academic grounding and work experience in the field of mine surveying in Germany. In that context Mrs Neumbo is now required to document her preparation and entitlement for enrolment in a tertiary level academic programme in mine surveying.

The certificate of enrolment which Mrs Neumbo has obtained from the University of Johannesburg, pertaining to her former studies there, lists her registration in your department for the programme that leads to the qualification 'NDip: Mineral Surveying'. This document is evidence of Mrs Neumbo's previous status as a student at a recognised university, and of her admission there on the basis of a valid university entrance qualification.

However, the officer who has evaluated Mrs Neumbo's former status as a university student on the basis of her certificate of enrolment from the University of Johannesburg, Mr Karl Heinz Schömig of the Zeugnisanerkennungsstelle für den Freistaat Bayern (Pöndtnerplatz 5, DE-80803 München; E-Mail: KarlHeinz.Schoemig@zast.bayern.de), has contended that the 'NDip: Mineral Surveying' of the University of Johannesburg is not a tertiary level academic qualification (but - rather, and distinct therefrom - a vocational qualification for which registrants and tutors merely use university buildings as venue for their preparations towards the requirements of that qualification) and can therefore not support a claim for admission to such a programme in the same subject in Germany. In particular, furthermore, Mr Schömig erroneously refers to the 'NDip: Mineral Surveying' of the University of Johannesburg as a '(Normal) Diploma'. The following is the pertinent statement of Mr Schömig:

Beim "N DIP: Mineral Surveying" handelt es sich um ein (Normal) Diploma. Gemäß Auskunft der Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen sind Diploma-Qualifikationen keine akademischen Studiengänge, sondern berufliche Ausbildungen, die in Südafrika häufig an Hochschulen stattfinden.

Before that background I should be grateful if you could kindly write to me a short letter in which you clarify that the programme that leads to the qualification 'NDip: Mineral Surveying' of the University of Johannesburg is in fact a tertiary level academic programme which has the same criteria for admission, namely the standard university entrance requirements, that also apply to bachelor's degree programmes at the University of Johannesburg. Furthermore, please kindly state in your letter that '(Normal) Diploma' is a misnomer that may stem from unreliable information on which Mr Schömig has apparently based his assessment.

I trust that such a statement from your side would greatly assist Mrs Neumbo in advancing her training and work experience in Germany at the level that is most appropriate to her previous preparation in her subject in your department, without having to be compelled to take an expensive, time-consuming and potentially counter-productive detour *via* other, unrelated programmes at lower-level institutions. Looking forward to receiving your respected response, I remain, for now, with cordial thanks for your valued attention and effort.

Yours sincerely

